



11/5/13

State of Michigan
House of Representatives
Committee on Government Operations
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Dear Committee:

The Board of Directors of the Ingham County Bar Association has voted to oppose SB 652, which would strip away the Court of Claims from the Ingham County Circuit Court.

This bill would have a major adverse impact on the practice of law in Ingham County. Our members have the experience and expertise in handling matters before the Court of Claims and our Circuit Court judges and staff members have familiarity and knowledge of these matters. The economic impact on county taxpayers would be devastating. A neutral analysis found that the county would lose half a million dollars and would have little to gain from infrastructure improvements made in recent years to address Court of Claims concerns.

This bill would have a major adverse impact on the practice of law and the administration of justice statewide. Radically changing such procedures would dramatically increase costs. Litigants would have to learn an entirely new manner of addressing claims against the state and would disrupt the stable system of civil justice that has been developed over the years.

Such major changes should not be made quickly.

Josh Ard
President, Ingham County Bar Association